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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/535,154	03/24/2000	Eric Metois	SOL-148	1884

7590 08/24/2005

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EXAMINER

SONG, HOSUK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2135

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/535,154

Applicant(s)

METOIS ET AL.

Examiner

Hosuk Song

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-19 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20,21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 13-19,23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oami et al(US 6,415,041).

Claims 13,23: Oami disclose analyzing an intrinsic fragility of the signal ,which is a carrier of the watermarked layer in(fig.1). Oami disclose determining a fragility profile in response to analyzing step and fragility profile is a model or a function that relates a degradation measure of the watermark layer to a degradation measure of the signal that carries the watermark in (col.10,lines 13-62 and fig.5).

Claim 14: Oami disclose subjecting the steganographic signal to at least one processing step and fragility profile denotes a deterioration of the embedded watermark layer due to at least one processing stage in (fig.5).

Claims 15,16: Oami disclose the intrinsic fragility analysis is applied to a cover portion of the signal before the signal is degraded by at least one processing step to indicate whether or not the watermark layer will survive the processing step in (col.5,lines 15-38).

Claims 17,18: Oami disclose the intrinsic fragility analysis is applied to a cover portion of the signal to suggest eventual modification of a configuration watermarking system used to provide the

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watermark layer to ensure a survival of the watermark layer through a specified processing stage in (col.5,lines 47-67).

Claim 19: Oami disclose data designating the fragility profile is carried in the signal in (fig.1).

Objections

2. Claim 17 is objected. Claim recite "configuration a watermarking system". Applicant is advised to correct minor grammar error.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-12,22 are allowed.

Claims 1,22: Prior art of record does not teach embedding a watermark with a degree of redundancy into the signal to form a steganographic signal and measuring a deterioration of the embedded watermark in the steganographic signal after the steganographic undergoes the processing, deterioration of the embedded watermark being based on recovered data bits from a plurality of redundantly embedded watermarks.

Claims 2-12 are allowed because of dependency.

Claims 20,21 remain objected

Response to Applicant's Arguments

4. Claims 1-23 are pending. The previous grounds of rejection based on the Cox and Oami patents are withdrawn in view of Applicant's arguments in the Amendment filed 6/17/2005. However, newly discovered prior art has necessitated new grounds of rejection. The new grounds of rejection are presented above. The delay in citation of the newly discovered prior art is regretted.

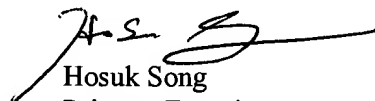
USPTO Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hosuk Song whose telephone number is 571-272-3857. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HS


Hosuk Song
Primary Examiner
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